

# BEIJING TODAY

北京青年报

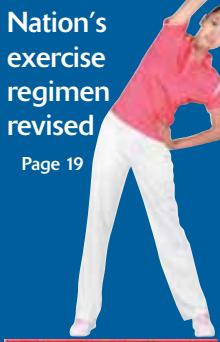
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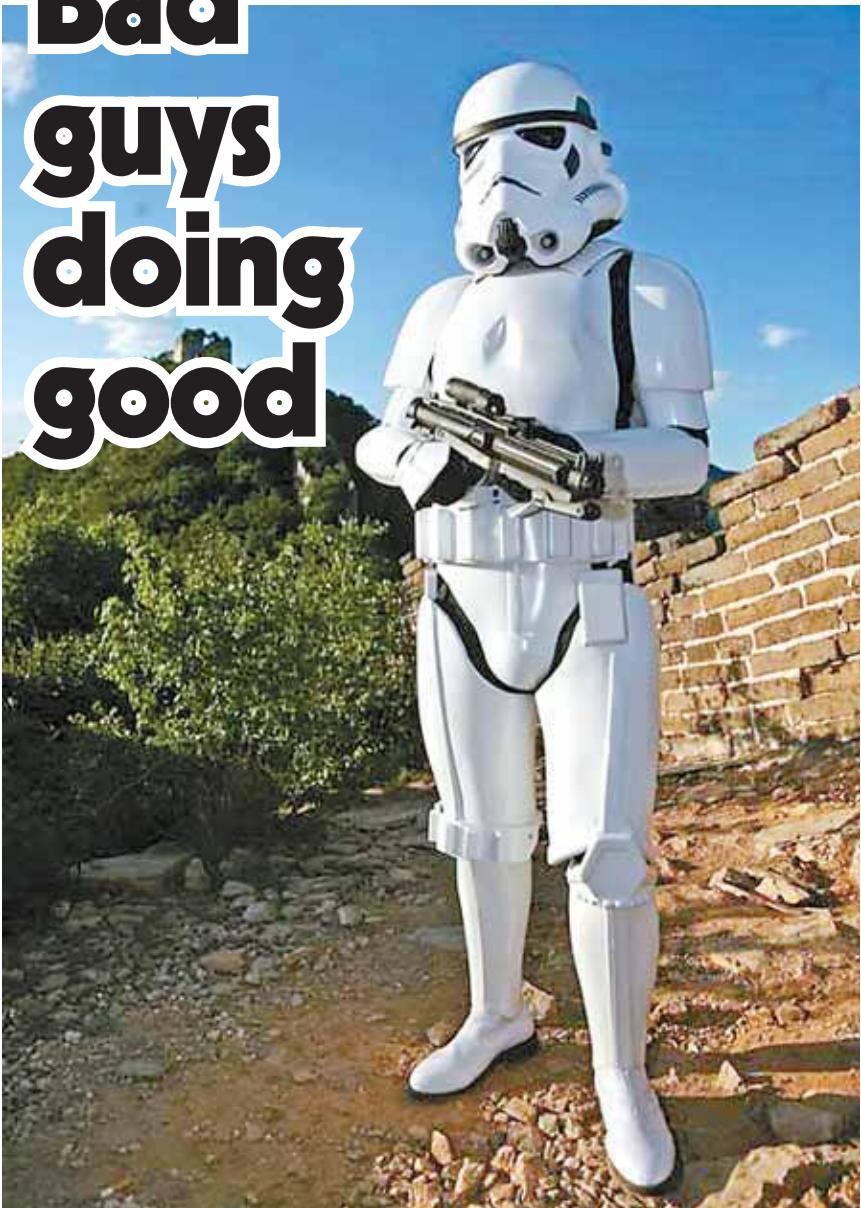


Nation's  
exercise  
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北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

## Bad guys doing good



A fully armed garrison of imperial storm troopers under the command of Darth Vader was recently spotted on the Great Wall.

The troopers are members of the new China garrison of the 501st Legion, better known as Vader's Fist.

Unlike cosplay enthusiasts, most of whom are teens with time to kill, the legion is composed of grown men in their 30s and 40s who are passionate about supporting the local community.

Photo by Song Yifan

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### Great Wall of greenery

A French Chinese fed up with the capital's lack of greenery is cultivating an indoor wall garden.



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### Art festival taps talent

Nodiac and Chinese artists are working to re-activate an old street's creative energy.

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# Scandal's aftermath leaves Red Cross short on blood

By Han Manman

The blood bank at the Beijing Red Cross Blood Center is down to a third of its normal stock. Many hospitals are postponing surgeries, and some are asking patients to persuade their relatives and friends to donate blood.

It seems the public has lost its trust in the Red Cross Society.

Liu Jiang, director of the Blood Center, said heavy rainfall could be one reason for the shortage, as 92 percent of

the city's reserves come from street donors. University students and migrant workers, two major sources of blood, are also gone for the summer, further aggravating the shortage.

But experts said the Red Cross can't blame this crisis on the weather.

The reputation of the Red Cross Society of China was marred in June, when a young woman named Guo Meimei began flaunting her luxurious life

on the Internet.

Guo's claim of being the general manager of an organization connected to the Red Cross set off a heated discussion of the possibility that donations were being misused.

Although the Red Cross said Guo had nothing to do with it, many have lingering doubts about the charity organization.

In April, a photograph of a 10,000-yuan restaurant bill for the Shanghai Branch of the

Red Cross was circulated online. Later, the National Audit Office uncovered five financial problems the Red Cross was hiding.

Liu said these issues may have a "direct influence" on the blood shortage.

Statistics from the Beijing municipal health bureau show the number of blood donors dropped by more than 10 percent in July and August.

"I will not donate blood again as I have lost my trust in the

Red Cross. Who knows if they are using my donated blood to profit," said Yun Haiting, a 28-year-old local resident, who donated twice in the past.

"I think Red Cross needs to make a great effort to regain the public's trust," Yun said. "But that won't be easy."

To deal with the shortage, the local Bureau of Health has set up six collection sites around the city and started extending Blood Center working hours.

## Students chafed by housing discrepancy

By Zhao Hongyi

Last week, an American student studying at Peking University wrote online that the university offers its best housing to international students while domestic students are forced to live in poor, overcrowded dormitories.

The student, who called herself Guo Jiaxin, appealed the university to improve the living conditions for its majority Chinese students.

Guo lives in a dorm in Zhongguanyuan Global Village, a new residential block located close to the east gate of the campus. The block houses international students from the US, Japan and South Korea.

Each dormitory houses two students and comes with a spring mattress, air conditioner, TV, closet and refrigerator – much like a standard hotel room. Each floor has a



A Japanese exchange student in her dorm at Peking University.

communal kitchen with full sets of cooking utensils, microwaves, micro-ovens and

a pantry.

In the basement of the No. 4 building is a luxury enter-



A Chinese student in her dorm at the same school. CFP Photos

tainment center with a public swimming pool, a bowling alley and a karaoke lounge.

Residence in the dorm costs 45 yuan per day, said Nishino Kou, a Japanese student studying at the university.

The dorms for Chinese students, however, are appalling.

There are four students in each room who have to share hard bunk beds. The rooms have no air conditioning or TV. Because the rooms have not been cleaned in years, the housing for male students has developed a strong reek.

The No. 31 building for female students has turned its hallway into a laundry line.

"There is no space. I have to send any clothes I am not using back home," one student said.

Each Chinese student dorm costs between 700 and 1,000 yuan per year, or 150-250 yuan per student.

Students complained that they applied to install air conditioners before, but were denied.

As a result, many students prefer to rent apartments in the nearby residential communities.

"We would accept higher charges if the school would pro-

vide us with better living conditions," a student said after reading the appeal online.

"We're improving the living conditions of the Chinese students all the time," an official in charge of campus housing said when called for an interview. "We have added Internet access to the dormitories, and we have slashed the number of students per room from eight to four."

Chinese universities used to offer free dorms to students before transitioning to a market economy. There used to be eight students in each dorm.

In the 1990s, schools began charging money for the dorms, but the fees were so low as to be symbolic.

The official, who would not state his name, said any improvement will be gradual. "It's unrealistic to expect the dorms to reach the living standards of the foreign students' housing right away," he said.

"We may provide Chinese students with different classes of housing in the future and have different rates for each," he said.

## Authorities probe alleged theft of Tian'anmen paintings

Municipal authorities said Wednesday that they are investigating an anonymous report that eight precious paintings have been stolen from the Tian'anmen Rostrum and that others have sustained mildew damage due to mismanagement.

Beijing's local media reported on Wednesday that authorities had received anonymous reports about the thefts of eight painting and calligraphic works from seven renowned artists.

The anonymous report included a property inspection from 2007 that found eight paintings by five artists were missing from the Tian'anmen Rostrum. The artists had donated their works for inclusion in the 1990s.

Among the artists who

donated their works was Wu Tianliang, chairman of the Heilongjiang Artists Association. Wu said that many artists have donated their works to Tian'anmen, and that it's the responsibility of the Administrative Commission to keep them safe.

"We are examining our collections to verify if every item is in place," a spokesman with the Tian'anmen administrative committee said in an interview with Xinhua late Wednesday night.

He said the committee had begun scrutinizing its collections last year in an effort to set up an electronic file for better management.

The committee has strict rules to ensure the safety of all its pieces. "All art is kept in special cabinets, and the keys to

these cabinets are not allowed to be taken out of the store-room," the spokesman said.

Receipts, lendings and deposits at the art collection are strictly registered by the committee's staff and verified by their supervisors, he said.

The storeroom is generally off-limits to outsiders, and visitors have to get approval from the head of the committee and be accompanied by committee staff, he said.

"Visitors are also banned from opening the cabinets or touching and taking photos of the art."

In May, Beijing police seized a man who was suspected to have stolen several items from the Forbidden City in a rare heist at the heavily-guarded Palace Museum.

(Xinhua)

# Donor flight leaves leukemia patients to die

By Li Zhixin

God played a joke on Lin Xisheng, a Jiangsu man with leukemia who needed an urgent marrow transplant last month.

His experience was a rollercoaster of hope and despair as his only hemopoietic stem cell donor waffled in her commitment, eventually fleeing mid-procedure and leaving Lin to face death.

## A donor backs out

On the morning of July 20, Li Tingting, a 22-year-old donor, laid quietly on a bed in the blood collection room at Yuannan No. 2 Hospital.

Li had agreed to have a portion of her hemopoietic stem cells drawn to save Lin.

Born in Yunnan, Li graduated from Yunnan Qujing Medical College earlier this year. She became a volunteer at the Yunnan Branch of the China Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donors Data Bank in 2009.

This May, her marrow was matched to Lin's.

Li had followed her classmates when many of them signed up to be volunteers. "I never imagined I would actually be called on to donate," she said.

Halfway through the operation, the technicians ran into problems with the cell separating system. The procedure was halted after collecting 115 milligrams of cells – half of the target.

In order to collect more, the donor bank contacted Kunming General Hospital of People's Liberation Army to arrange a second procedure.

That was when Li started having second thoughts.

"The doctor was arguing with the nurses about what to do with the blood that was still stuck in the separator," she said. "It makes me feel like the doctor didn't know what he was doing, and that they lied to me when they said the process was safe and easy."

At the urging of the marrow bank and her friends, she eventually agreed to a second operation.

That was when her parents called.

"Her parents said they opposed what she was doing, and that if she went in for a second operation they would disown her," Li's boyfriend said.

Li never showed up for the second procedure and refused to talk to the bank.

Out of options, the marrow bank sent the 115 milliliters of cells it had collected to Xuzhou, where they would be injected into Lin.

"The volume is far from what we need to save his life," said Li Bin, director of the hematology department at Yunnan No. 2 Hospital. "The patient's own hemopoietic stem cells were destroyed before this transplant. If we don't have enough cells to put into him, there's no way he can begin generating his own."

"Her quitting has accelerated Lin's death."

At midnight on July 21, Li agreed to donate after the marrow bank spent a day trying to persuade her. It agreed to get her a written apology from the hospital, 50,000 yuan in compensation and a guarantee of her health during the next year.

The next day, she refused to show up for the donation.

The bank gave up.



The need for hemopoietic stem cell donors is vast. Cheng Quan/CFP

**"We have no recourse when a volunteer vanishes, but deserters should not be too heavily criticized – they have the right to not donate."**

**"I think the marrow bank should send text messages or emails during holidays to keep in touch with its donors."**



The bone marrow bank usually looks for volunteer donors in universities. Yang Yi/CFP

## A common problem

If Lin's body fails to generate new cells in the following month, he will die.

But Li said she has not done anything wrong.

"I don't feel at all guilty," she said. "I already donated my cells. If the hospital hadn't botched the procedure, none of this would be happening."

The hospital accused Li of not being "a determined volunteer."

"The operation to collect hemopoietic stem cells is not a one-time procedure. Some hospitals have to do it three times to get enough stem cells," he said.

Delinquent donors are nothing new. About 20 percent of the donors walk out after being matched to a patient in need, the marrow bank said.

Other countries face the same problem.

"The ratio is between 20 and 25 percent in the US," said Liu Jinghu, deputy director of the marrow bank.

She said volunteers who vanish on the eve of the operation are usually influenced by their families. Some were never committed when they signed up.

It has been 10 years since the marrow donor bank was founded, and many people still don't understand the procedure, Liu said. "Some people believe that their health and hematopoietic function will be affected by the donation," Liu said.

"Actually, the regenerative capacity of human's hemopoietic stem cells is very strong. Under normal conditions, many cells in the body die and are regenerated every day. Blood loss or donation can stimulate bone marrow to accelerate blood production, and within two weeks the body is back to normal."

## Little can be done

According to the bank, there are more than a million donors on file. It has helped arrange 1,500 donations, including 70 donations abroad.

About 1 in 25,000 people in China will develop leukemia, according to the epidemiological statistics. There are 40,000 to 50,000 new patients in the country each year. With the rollover from past years, that means there are more than a million patients.

The need for hemopoietic stem cells is vast.

Bone marrow donation is a voluntary and free procedure, so the signing of a letter of consent is not legally binding.

"We have no recourse when a volunteer vanishes," Liu said. "But deserters should not be too heavily criticized – they have the right to not donate."

Laws on bone marrow donation may also be to blame. The government does not allow the prosecution of people who go back on their word, said Liu Wenhua, a lawyer at Beijing Dacheng Law Office.

Chen Zechi, director of the marrow bank's Guangdong Branch, said the high ratio of desertion is closely related to the current mobilization patterns. "The banks usually look for volunteers in universities and in the army. Most register on impulse or due to peer pressure," he said.

The marrow bank is also short-handed, and it can't follow up with volunteers like many banks do abroad.

"I have been registered as a donor volunteer for more than two years, but no one from the marrow bank has ever contacted me. I've wondered whether they lost my information," said Yuan Wei, a 35-year-old volunteer. "I think the marrow bank should send text messages or emails during holidays to keep in touch with its donors."

"Generally speaking, the whole system of bone marrow donation is fragile," he said.

"If the hospital's operation is precise and the marrow bank does a better job of screening and maintaining contact with its donors, then the current problems would be greatly reduced," he said.



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# Water the biggest crisis in China?

What is the biggest challenge that China faces? Corruption, the gap between the rich and poor or the rapidly aging population? No. A closer look suggests that the greatest threat may well be lack of access to clean water.

British World Politics Review reported that from "cancer villages" to violent protests to rising food prices, diminishing water supplies are exerting a profound and harmful effect on the Chinese people as well as on the country's capacity to continue to prosper economically. China's leaders have acknowledged the severity of the challenge and have adopted a number of policies to address their growing crisis.

Elizabeth C. Economy, the author of the article, said China's water story begins with a challenging reality: The country's per capita water resources just exceeded more than one-quarter of the world aver-

age and the distribution of those resources throughout the country is highly uneven.

Northern China is home to approximately 40 percent of the country's total population and almost half its agricultural land, and produces more than 50 percent of GDP. But it receives only 12 percent of total precipitation. Southern China, in contrast, receives 80 percent of China's total precipitation; yet skyrocketing levels of water pollution dramatically reduce the south's natural advantage.

Economy said resources, particularly water, are consumed without consideration for future



A sewage plant in Zhejiang Province

Zhang Heping/CFP

demand. Industry and agriculture are notoriously profligate water consumers: industry, which accounts for about one-quarter of China's total water consumption,

uses anywhere from 4 to 10 times more water per unit of GDP as other competitive economies. By far, the largest portion of China's industrial water use is devoted to

energy: The process of mining, processing and consuming coal alone accounts for almost 20 percent of all water consumed nationally.

Agriculture, which accounts for 62 percent of China's total water consumption, also takes a serious toll on China's water supply.

Widespread pollution adds another dimension to the country's water crisis. More than 90 percent of southern China's water withdrawal comes from surface water, but in the first half of 2010, almost a quarter of China's surface water was so polluted that it was not even usable for industry. For decades, factories and municipalities have dumped untreated waste directly into streams, rivers and coastal waters.

(Agencies)

## Expert China's water policy is undergoing transition

By Li Zhixin

China has embarked on a vigorous campaign over the past three decades to drastically reshape water development and management policies in the context of market reforms and a major reassessment of the legal, scientific and technical foundations of the water economy, said Zhao Wenyuan, director of the China Hydraulics Engineering Society (CHES).

The magnitude and complexity of the task is extremely great. It will integrate long-standing policies defining State responsibility for judicious water devel-

opment, protection and use with newer economic and legal strategies for realizing the long-term benefits of sustainable water use.

"The ambitious water policy initiatives now underway aim to reshape deep-seated assumptions about the universal efficacy of engineering solutions for water supply, control and quality problems," Zhao said. "It will reinterpret criteria for justifying and measuring the economic and social value and costs of hydropower resources, as well as for water supply, treatment, control, protection and distribution infrastructure."

The dramatic shift in water policy thinking occurred in 1999 when Wang Nucheng, the minister of the water resources, introduced the "resource water conservancy" concept to better serve agriculture, urbanization, public health, ecological integrity and social well-being at the 7th Congress of CHES.

"This represents a distinctive new perspective in Chinese water management," Zhao said.

China's water policy initiatives are of special interest for several reasons, Baruch Boxer, an American expert on China's water policy development, wrote

in Volume 26 of the journal *Water International*.

"They test assumptions as to the efficacy of modern policy remedies for water conservation, hazard mitigation and environmental protection in a society where assurance of adequate water supply and protection from flood and drought has been a primary hallmark of successful governance for over two millennia," Boxer wrote.

Although the fundamental policy shift is still in its early stage, wider focus on water as "resource" clearly seeks more effective institutional mecha-

nisms for policy development and implementation, he said.

Moreover, the policy calls for the reshaping of public attitudes and responsibilities toward water as a resource, thereby promoting protection, conservation and improved scientific management.

"New technical vocabulary and scientific perspectives must extend definitions of water engineering benefits to include newly-specified nonmaterial benefits, like ecological support, improved public health and recreation that are implicit in the [water] agenda," Boxer wrote.

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# Baijiu goes abroad

## Will Diageo's takeover turn the spirit into a global success?

By Huang Daohen

In China, baijiu is the go-to drink when one is seeking a potent potable. But the strong spirit, known for its fragrant aftertaste, isn't for most foreigners. On his state visit to China in 1972, US president Richard Nixon was advised to take a pass on the drink.

That didn't stop British liquor giant Diageo from acquiring Shuijingfang, a Sichuan baijiu distiller.

The deal enables Diageo to expand its business in the country's fast growing alcohol market, but can it turn baijiu into a hit abroad?

### Bottoms up

When Allen Anderson was invited to a home reception by his Chinese colleague, he was nervous.

The 27-year-old American engineer was told long ago that Chinese hosts have a reputation for pressuring their guests to pound baijiu – after all, it's a sign of hospitality.

Anderson found his worries unnecessary.

The reception turned out to be a carnival, and everyone was free to hoist his glass of beer, wine or baijiu. He decided to start with the baijiu.

"A shot of it is like turning a hairdryer on your stomach, and then the tears start pouring out," said Anderson. "But it's worth it, and the feeling is really good."

They switched to beer, then to wine, then back to baijiu. "Who knows passing out on baijiu could be so fun?" he said.

Diageo apparently knows it.

The British drinks giant, owner of Baileys, Smirnoff, Guinness and Johnnie Walker, announced in late June that after 16 months of waiting it had gained approval to take control of a local Sichuan baijiu maker.

According to the deal, Diageo will pay 140 million yuan (\$22 million) to up its stake in Sichuan Chengdu Quanxing Group by 4 percent, taking its holdings to 53 percent.

The deal gave Diageo actual control of Shuijingfang, a known brand of baijiu made by Quanxing Group. It will allow the company to expand its business in China, where baijiu accounts for 30 percent of the alcohol market.

In 2010, the country's alcoholic drinks market passed 805.8

**Baijiu is less known by Europeans and Americans only because it hasn't been properly marketed. Once foreigners take to baijiu, they will expect an authentic brand.**

— Gilbert Ghostine, head of Asian business, Diageo



Diageo is taking control of Shuijingfang, a famous Sichuan baijiu brand.

CFP Photo

billion yuan in sales, up 13 percent from the previous year, Xinhua reported.

But the domestic spirit market was never the target.

In a statement, Diageo said it aims to turn the brand into an international success.

"We are fully committed to build Shuijingfang into a globally recognized Chinese brand," said Gilbert Ghostine, head of the firm's

Asian business.

Currently, Shuijingfang is available at the country's major cities and airports. Now Diageo plans to modernize the brand and take it beyond the mainland. Its first target will be Asia, Ghostine said. In May, the company launched a Shuijingfang branch in Singapore. It has also set up distributors in Los Angeles and Australia, Ghostine said.

He said the company will also begin selling the spirit in Chicago airports.

**Is the world ready?**

But will the traditional Chinese spirit prove popular in the overseas market, where wine is more popular at dinner tables?

Ghostine is confident. He told London media that baijiu is less

known by Europeans and Americans only because it hasn't been properly marketed. Once foreigners take to baijiu, they will expect an authentic brand.

Experts agreed.

Ryan Yao, research director at local consulting agency Qingxue Market Solutions, said recent years have seen rise in the demand for baijiu across the world, especially in the overseas Chinese community.

Recent demand

for Maotai, one of the country's top baijiu brands, has caused prices to soar to insane levels. A bottle of 1950s Maotai, for instance, sold for 1.45 million yuan late last year in Hangzhou.

Yao said the frenzy even lit up the auction market. Well-dressed global travelers are bidding high prices for rare baijiu.

"For some Chinese, Maotai has become the Louis Vuitton," she said.

Though the demand for brand name baijiu may be lower outside of the Chinese community, Yao said foreigners who are used to drinking hard liquor will buy it.

In Russia and France, spirits play a more prominent role in the

marketplace than in the US, England and Germany, where beer and wine dominate.

That's why baijiu distributors like Diageo are focused on the overseas Chinese community in countries like the US, Yao said. It is following Chinese business travelers by selling Shuijingfang at duty-free shops.

And when overseas Chinese buy more baijiu, their neighbors

will have a chance to try it.

Besides, baijiu has other uses: for those who want to do business in China, whipping out a rare bottle of baijiu can help seal a deal, Yao said.

Collectors know this, and they're willing to spend.

Meanwhile, given the limited output and steep price, it's still a good way to invest, Yao said.

Maotai and Shuijingfang aside, the most famous brands of baijiu are Wuliangye, Fenjiu and Luzhou Daqu.

### Behind the takeover

While Yao is confident about baijiu's potential abroad, she is more concerned about what is behind the long-lasting takeover.

The country's mergers and

acquisitions and antitrust laws both have provisions on the acquisition of known local brands by foreign companies, and many mergers have been shot down by the Ministry of Commerce.

In 2009, the government rejected a \$2.4 billion (15.3 billion yuan) bid by Coca-Cola to buy Huiyuan, the country's top juice maker, citing antitrust concerns.

But why did the ministry approve this deal?

Yao said there are several possibilities. One is that the approval of the deal was announced during the time when Premier Wen Jiabao met the UK Prime Minister David Cameron in London for a summit designed to increase business cooperation between the two countries.

The leaders later announced business contracts worth \$2.23 billion. The Diageo deal was reportedly among them, Yao said.

But Yao said the approval is more like sending a strong signal about local protectionism, at a time when foreign investors complained about the country's tough business environment.

The government wants to use this approval as evidence of its hospitality and fair treatment of foreign companies and investors.

For those who are worried about local protectionism, this is good news for future mergers, Yao said.

# China considering 401 clause for its pension system

By Zhao Hongyi

China is discussing the possibility of allowing individual investment of pension and insurance funds for a steady and safe return in the long term.

The idea comes from the 401 clause of the pension system of the US, which was first implemented in the late 1970s.

The pension system in the US consists of three parts: the federal retirement pension; the employers and employees joint pension, or the 401 clause; and the voluntary supplemental pension with a federal tax exemption.

The 401 clause has become the mainstay of an individual's pension. The clause forces individuals to put less than 25 percent of their monthly income into a company's pension account.

Meanwhile, employers must

deposit the same amount of money into the account and offer four types of investment options, namely share funds, bond funds, currency funds and the company's shares.

Individuals can choose one of these investment methods. At retirement, he or she can withdraw from the account. At this time, the individual will have to pay the income tax.

Supporters of this system argue that this has formed long-term, continuous and reliable capital flows into the market.

"This is why the stock market was healthy over 18 years in the 1970s and 1980s in the US," said Li Daxiao, president of Yingda Securities Research Center.

Others believe the system cannot be copied in China. The country should design a different reliable pension structure for its huge population, they say.



China is entering the age of elders. The number of retirees is increasing every year.

CFP Photo

## Comment

### Benefits, but with risks

The 401 clause has proven successful in the US. First, it increases the attractiveness of companies involved. Employers will work harder so the company will be worth more. Second, the pensions will provide capital flows into the capital market. Third, the individuals will receive considerable and reliable benefits after they retire. Of course, if the company goes bankrupt like Enron or the Lehman Brothers, you will

lose all your money.

— Jiang Ren, professor of finance, Peking University  
**Idea is good, but more needs to be done**

The idea helps individual investors in China, which can help the grow China's stock markets and capital markets.

But before that, we need to solve a number of problems. Individuals have to learn more about how to design their future investments, more pension funds are needed and compa-

nies must carry out their business more transparently.

— Ru Ping, manager, Morgan Stanley Huaxin  
**401 clause is downsizing!**

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development conducted a survey on the pension market of its member countries in December 2008 and found that their stock market downsized nearly 50 percent between December 2007 and October 2008, resulting in losses of more than \$5

trillion from private pension investments.

In the US, four-fifths of families participated in the 401 clause and suffered a loss of more than \$3.3 trillion. The number of accounts involved in this investment is decreasing rapidly now.

— Ye Tan, financial analyst and commentator, CCTV

### Irresponsible and selfish!

In China, investment channels are increasing but still limited. Most of the money invested

is only in the stock market, which is fragile and currently in turmoil. The players in this market are going for short-term instead of long-term benefits. China has not matured in other investment markets like venture capital, currency market, futures market and financial derivatives. Therefore, those proposing to support the 401 clause are irresponsible and have their own agendas.

— Su Yu, general manager, Yuming Investing Co.

# The right to die question hits China



Zhong Yichuan in jail

Photo provided by Jiangxi Daily

By Zhao Hongyi  
Zhong Yichuan, an elderly farmer in Jiangxi Province, never thought that helping bury his old friend, Zeng Qingxiang, would bring him a two-year prison sentence and force him to give more than 80,000 yuan as compensation to Zeng's family.

Last October 19, the mentally ill Zeng told Zhong that he had no strength left to live because he had become a burden to his poor family. Zeng asked Zhong to bury him after his death.

Zhong persuaded Zeng to live and went back home to dinner.

Fifteen minutes after eating, Zhong went to visit Zeng again.

He found his friend lying in hole he had dug himself. Zeng had taken lots of sleeping pills after Zhong left and laid himself in the hole, waiting for death.

Zhong, who may have thought his friend was dead, ended up closing the hole.

Zhong had asked Zhong to help him commit suicide several times, but Zhong refused each time.

Zhong was arrested on May 26. After two trials, he was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay 83,398 yuan to Zeng's family.

The two families are so poor that neither is expecting to pay or be paid. Zhong's only son is also mentally ill.

## Comment

### More details please

Obviously there are some details missing here. What exactly was his mental illness? Was the friend comatosus when he requested Zhong to help him end his life? What exactly did Zhong do to verify his friend's status before burying him?

Why did this botched attempt take place? Many possible reasons come to mind, but one conclusion seems clear. If the law allowed for a formal process of assisting suicide, Zhong not only wouldn't have been placed in this terrible position, but the act itself would have been supervised by an expert.

— Stan Abrams, a Beijing-based IT lawyer

### Morality of assisted suicide in question

If the guy was not mentally competent, then he needs medical treatment, not someone to help him do

something he may not want to be done if he had all his wits about him.

In this case, the victim fell asleep with pills, but it's unclear whether he was still alive when his friend buried him. Not answering to a call might mean he was unconscious, but doesn't mean he's already dead. So the friend may have committed the actual act of killing him.

There should be no religious hang-ups in China as there is in the US, particularly since China is an atheist state. However, religious handwriting might get replaced with cultural taboos.

— S. K. Cheung, freelancer  
**China should legalize euthanasia**

China should analyze the basic principles of its criminal law and take steps to gradually promote the legalization of euthanasia. That's the reason the Preliminary Court made the sentence and the Supreme

Court of the province insisted on the sentence.

We should first accumulate judicial experience in handling cases regarding euthanasia. The Supreme Court can then come up with judicial interpretations and guidance and finally legalize euthanasia at the proper time.

— Yan Sanzhong, professor of Law, Jiangxi Normal University

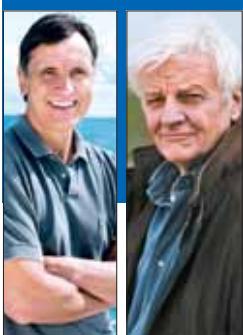
### Do good things

First, I don't agree with helping others commit suicides. Buddhism persuades people to do good and positive things instead of negative things.

Second, where's the hard evidence that Zeng wanted to die? There should be a videotape or letter or witness.

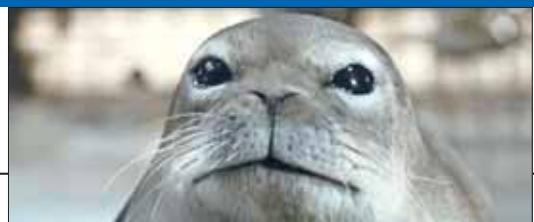
This case has shed light on the poverty in our country.

— Wang Jun, professor of social sciences, Peking University



Jacques Cluzaud and Jacques Perrin

# The making of a nature documentary



By Wei Xi

*Oceans*, a documentary by renowned French directors Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud, hit Chinese cinemas recently and has attracted great attention.

The film, which focuses on marine life, seeks to give audiences the complete story of man's effect on the oceans and seas. The directors are clear about their aim: to build awareness and inspire conservation efforts.

*Oceans* has already been on the big screen in countries such as France, the US, South Korea and Japan.

Filmmakers and producers spent five years traveling to 54 places around the world, including the North Pole, filming more than 100 species at a total cost of \$66 million (421 million yuan). There were 12 film crews, 70 vessels and lots of state-of-the-art equipment.

Before filming began, Cluzaud spent two years consulting experts and planning the shots. "We would

first decide what theme or what emotional feelings we want to present, and then we'd go to the experts and discuss what kind of fish suits that best," Cluzaud said.

The five years of filming produced some unforgettable experiences. Cluzaud said his crew once landed on a small island in the Pacific Ocean where human beings had not been for a long time – possibly ever. "It was like we were visiting the home of animals," he said. "They were so free and so close to humans, unlike what would happen in the cities."

There were heart-breaking moments, too. The group had planned to film the white-flag dolphin in China, but before they could set off, they were informed that the last white-flag dolphin had died.

Not all the scenes in *Oceans* were real. A shark whose fin cut off before being thrown into the sea was actu-

ally a model, as Cluzaud would not let a real shark be killed.

Cluzaud said he hoped *Oceans* would hit viewers like "a ton of bricks" and inspire them to protect marine life.

For Perrin, to film marine life was a dream come true. After the success of the film *Winged Migration* (2001), which he and Cluzaud co-directed, he was able to pursue the *Oceans* project.

Although Cluzaud is 13 years younger than Perrin, the two cooperated very well. They had known each other for more than 10 years, both sharing a love for nature.

For *Oceans*, there was a clear division of work: Perrin had more responsibility on the financial side, while Cluzaud was in charge of filming.

"They often came together and discussed whenever they encountered a problem," said Yang Ying, part of *Oceans*' release company in China.

Photos from Douban.com



# 中国第一品牌周刊

## 360°人生 360°品牌

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360°人生 360°品牌



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BO封面记事本

# Post-Gadhafi Libya's future remains uncertain



The old Libyan flag being lowered at the Libyan embassy in Beijing.

By Zhang Dongya

Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC) has sent a delegation to Tripoli to prepare for the NTC's move, head of NTC Mustafa Abdul Jalil told a visiting Morocco foreign minister on Wednesday, Xinhua reported.

After rebel fighters controlled a significant portion of Tripoli, Libyan embassies in different countries began to hoist the tri-colored opposition flag at their premises.

On Monday morning, the Libyan embassy in China lowered the green flag of Moammar Gadhafi's government in Sanlitun East Street. Employees of the embassy said the era of Gadhafi was over, so they replaced the flag, *Legal Mirror* reported.

The embassy has strengthened its security presence. A Chinese operator said the embassy is operating as normal.

In addition, the Libyan embassies

in Muscat, Czech Republic and Algeria all hoisted the rebel flag, replacing the green standard.

It is widely believed among international communities that Gadhafi's era has ended.

A UN spokesperson said Tuesday that an urgent meeting on Libya, which will take place on Friday with the heads of regional and international organizations, is aiming to "develop ways in which the international community can work together on the post-conflict phase," Xinhua reported.

However, many hold a wait-and-see attitude on the transitional government. It remains to be seen whether the rebel forces can bring the country together after the conflict, He Wenping, director of the Institute of West Asian and African Studies in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said in an interview with *Guangzhou Daily*.

## Expert's view

Future US-Libya relations depends on the new government's policies

Libya's present situation is gradually getting clearer. That is to say, the rebel forces have the upper hand, and it's almost certain that Gadhafi will step down from the stage.

However, US president Barack Obama said on Monday that the "situation in Libya is still fluid, uncertain," which shows the US' concern about the situation. Although Gadhafi is on the decline, he will leave considerable impact on the development of the present situation – there remain his supporters and important tribal followers. In addition, the rebel forces contain many factions and partisans, which remain a threat to stability. Since no leader has risen to unite all factions, the US



Yuan Zheng

is worried that post-conflict Libya will devolve into more conflict.

In the future, the US will pay attention to the following three aspects: First to work on building a pro-American government and nudging the country in a "democratic" direction. Second, to prevent weapons of mass destruction and chemical weapons to fall into anti-American forces and terroristic organizations. Third, to develop the country's economy, especially from oil.

Whether post-Gadhafi Libya thrives depends on the policies of Libya's new government – and whether that policy will be on the

side of America's interest. This issue will be of interest to all factions in post-war Libya.

— Yuan Zheng, senior research fellow of the Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences



The kingdom of Libya flag, used by Libyan rebel forces. CFP Photos

## Spain's top chef named country's tourism ambassador to Beijing

By Chu Meng

Beijing Municipal Tourism Bureau, together with the Spanish embassy in Beijing, bestowed upon Ferran Adria, Spanish avant-garde chef and national treasure, the title of Spanish Tourism Beijing Ambassador on Tuesday.

Eugenio Bregolat, the Spanish ambassador to China, and Joan Mesquida, director of the Spanish National Tourist Office, participated in the ceremony at Beijing Hotel.

Bregolat said for a long time, cuisine has been an irreplaceable part of Spanish culture and history. The choice of a chef to become the country's tourism ambassador is to give locals a taste of Spain.

"Also, Ferran Adria represents the top level of cuisine techniques in the world," he said. "We want to provide Chinese tourists the same high standards when they

visit Spain, including sightseeing, food and culture."

Adria, 40, is the head chef of the recently closed three-starred Michelin restaurant El Bulli in Roses, Spain, often considered the best restaurant in the world.

Adria's culinary skills include creatively adopting physical theories and methods to transforming food materials' shapes while maintaining their original flavors. Skillfully using liquid nitrogen during cooling processes is his specialty.

El Bulli, when it was open, was open only six months out of the year. Adria spent the remaining time perfecting existing recipes in his El Taller workshop in Barcelona and studying new food matches through serious laboratory work. He also established an "El Taller" foundation to support avant-garde culinary creatives worldwide.

He is well known for creating

"culinary foam," made from a main ingredient plus "air" – liquid nitrogen in a siphon bottle. His foam creations include foamed espresso, foamed mushroom and foamed beetroot.

With "air," he can turn coconut milk into a hollow ostrich egg, or cook Shanghai steamed buns without flour, or make a two-meter-long thread of spaghetti.

Because of Adria's cutting-edge implementation of physical theories and methods in cooking, Harvard University invited him to teach a culinary physics course in its School of Physics last autumn.

At Tuesday's ceremony, the chef said that creativity is about experience and studying new things continuously. He said a chef's use of food materials, heating control, seasonings, final colors and shape designs is the language that chef speaks.

"For example, though I have



Spanish chef Ferran Adria is often considered the best chef in the world. Photo provided by Zhu Fangfang

visited China several times, I still can't understand the cooking language of some Chinese cuisines," he said. "Like, why one stewed dish matches a certain material, or why a soup creates a certain flavor that doesn't appeal much to me."

The chef said that's why he wants to come to China, to draw exotic but fresh inspiration for his culinary work.

# Enjoy traditional foods at harvest time

By Wei Xi

We live in a fast-pace world, surrounded by fast food restaurants such as KFC, McDonald's and Yoshinoya. Sometimes one needs to slow down – perhaps over some "slow food."

The Schoolhouse, a sustainable tourism development agency, will host its annual Slow Food Saturday on September 3 underneath Mutianyu Great Wall to celebrate the harvest and beauty of nature.

Slow food "is an international movement that promotes freshly made local, seasonal and traditional foods to be enjoyed leisurely with good fellowship by family and friends," said Jim Spear, partner of The Schoolhouse.

At last year's event, guests enjoyed delicious food and took part in other activities such as hiking the Great Wall and orchards.

This year, however, "we hope to focus more on food itself and provide more local food demonstrations," said Wuyun Tana, a sustainability programs manager and ecologist.

Guests will be able to see how some local foods – tofu, for example – are made and hear stories about the food.

Eleven local restaurants, each serving a different main course, will be in charge of making sure everyone leaves sated.

While eating, guests can also enjoy performances such as "yangle" dancing by local ladies and glass blowing demonstrations, and try their luck in a raffle.

The Schoolhouse started with only one restaurant and an art glass studio. Now it owns several restaurants, a boutique hotel and a collection of village



The Schoolhouse's Slow Food day always attracts many visitors.

Photos provided by The Schoolhouse



Chefs are local residents.

existing buildings redeployed to new uses and adopting green practices such as composting and conservation in the operations of our small-scale businesses," said Spear, who believes their principles promote sustainability.

Spear said Randhir Singh, the executive chef, is the heart and soul of The Schoolhouse Canteen. Singh's fellow chefs are all local farm housewives, many of them learning on the go.

## Slow Food Saturday

Where: International Culture Village, Mutianyu, Beigou, Xinying and Tianxianyu (there will

be shuttle buses leaving from the Trek store at Chaoyang Park's south gate from 8:40 to 9:00 am. Make sure you have booked a seat before August 30).

When: Saturday, September 3  
Tel: 15811229491 or 6162 6282  
Email:

info@slowfoodsaturday.org  
Cost: 100 yuan for people who have registered beforehand and prepaid, 120 yuan for people who registered early but have not paid, and 150 yuan for people registering and paying upon arrival (transportation fees excluded; pre-payment must be made by bank transfer).

## Event

### Mashup co-ed dodgeball

"If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball" – so says the coach in the film *Dodgeball*. Feel free to put the theory to test, as dodgeball is coming to Beijing. This game is a fun way for you to relieve the stress from long hours of work and shut up that friend who never stops talking. This will be the most popular league in the capital, so sign up fast.

Where: Mashup Sport and Social, Dongsi Olympic Community Sports Culture Center near Chaoyangmen subway station on Line 2

When: Every Tuesday starting August 30

Email:  
info@mashupasia.com  
Cost: 500 yuan (eight weeks of play, league shirt and all equipment)

### Chinese Painting Workshop with Gift of Hope

If you are interested in learning traditional Chinese painting, why not try your hand for a good cause? Learn how to paint stills from Master Geng, a disabled artist who enjoys teaching and making friends. Proceeds from the event go to support Gift of Hope, an NGO that helps the disabled in Beijing.

Where: Deng Feng (Email for detailed address or map is required.)

When: Saturday, August 27, 2-5 pm  
Email: opend@giftofhopesy.com  
Cost: 200 yuan

### Photo exhibition: Beijing on the move

Do you know how Beijing has changed from a walled city to an open metropolis over the past hundred years? Beijing Postcards will explore this extraordinary transformation with you through a photo exhibition, with insightful explanations in English and Chinese. Beijing Postcards has spent months doing extensive research, including interviews with local Beijing dwellers.

Where: 69 Yanhai Xie Jie, Dong Cheng District

When: September 5 – November 28, 2 pm to late  
Tel: 1371856237  
Cost: Free

### Family music fun: free demo class

Starting next month, weekly 45-minute classes will be offered to children under 6 years old and their parents or guardians. We have various activities like songs, rhythm chants, movement and instrument play that are specially designed for kids interesting in learning.

Where: Jingda Apt. 11 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: September 25-27  
Tel: 8113 8282  
Cost: Free  
Website:  
michoeducation.com

(By Wei Xi)

# A cause worth kicking around

By Yao Weijie

A six-a-side soccer tournament called Beijing Charity Shield, organized by the Pangaea Events, will be held at the British School of Beijing in Shunyi District on September 24, with proceeds going to help build a soccer field for a school in Shandong Province.

The organizers are aiming to get 20 teams, including multinational companies. Funds will help the Shandong Guanxian Vocational School.

"The purpose of the fundraising is to physically build an all-weather football pitch for the school," Dean Hawkes, who is in charge of Pangaea Events, said. "We do not want to simply give money to a charity, we wanted to do something tangible with that money, so we will personally oversee the project from start to finish."

Pangaea Events' criteria for choosing a charity was simple: organizers wanted to help disadvantaged children through sports.



Shandong Guanxian Vocational School doesn't currently have a soccer field.

Photos provided by Pangaea Events

Introduced by friends in other charity organizations, Hawkes found Shandong Guanxian Vocational School. It has only a basketball playground and few sports facilities.

"We feel that giving back to the community is very important as it can help lives," Hawkes said. "We believe there's a certain depth of multinational companies

in China to give back to the local community as part of corporate social responsibility."

Half of Pangaea Events' team is from England and grew up playing and watching soccer. The director of Pangaea Events is a qualified soccer coach and former semi-professional player.

"The football tournament will

be very interesting," Hawkes said. "Along with the benefit to charity, we also think it's a great company day out – a team bonding event."

Each company may enter 10 players, but people are more than welcome to invite their friends. There will be a children's play area, several food and drink stands, music, entertainment, a female penalty shootout and an F1-style champagne shower for the winning team.

### The Beijing 6-a-Side Charity Shield

Where: The British School of Beijing, 10 Anhua Jie, Shunyi District (buses will leave downtown Beijing in the morning and return in the evening)

When: September 24, 9 am – 5:30 pm  
Cost: 32,500 yuan per team  
Tel: 13693393842  
Website: Pangaea-events.com  
Email:  
info@pangaea-events.com,  
deanhawkes@gmail.com

# Nordic Art Festival kicks off Beijing Design Week



A Nordic festival participant collects designing resources in the city's alleys.

By Chu Meng

As one of the key components of 2011 Beijing Design Week, the 50-day NOTCH Art Festival, a comprehensive platform for Nordic and Chinese, began in Beijing on Monday.

This year is the fifth anniversary of this cultural and creative art festival, themed "Socialized Design" and "Recycling Creativity."

Young designers, architects, musicians and artists from Denmark, Iceland, Norway and China will gather near Qianmen to discover cultural and historical resources.

Artists will then use their findings to create works of art in a studio at an abandoned electronics factory near Qianmen as part of "Open Studio Camp."

"Artists from completely different cultural environments can help locals realize something precious is there but overlooked,"

said Yang Lei, one of the festival's organizers. "The open camp aims to discover hidden gems and activate local creative energy."

Yang, in his 30s, is from Hong Kong. He has a Master's degree in industrial design from a university in Norway and used to be a press officer in the Norwegian embassy.

"I believe that Nordic artists are among the best in the world in the field of design," he said. "Their works are chic, pure, natural and friendly, and at the same time, human-oriented."

"I want to bring them to motivate rising Chinese artists."

In order to fulfill his dream, he quit his embassy job to immerse himself fully in cultural exchange projects. He said the word "NOTCH" is a combination of "Nordic" and "Chinese."

The NOTCH Festival, founded in 2006, is a creative cultural

exchange initiative between Nordic countries and China. Since 2009, the NOTCH Art Festival has been Beijing Design Week's partner program.

Currently in the first year of its second "Five-Year Plan," NOTCH seeks to return to its roots.

Yang said the theme of "Feedback" refers to feeding back to the future. Dashilar, the area in Qianmen where the studio is located, was once a critical area for culture and entertainment in Old Beijing. The abandoned electronics factory once produced relays that contained "feedback" loops.

The studio emphasizes cross-field collaboration.

The camp is open to the public and will engage the local community.

Danish female graphic duo Hvass & Hannibal will work with Chinese graphic designer Been to turn recycled milk boxes into an

Photo provided by NOTCH

urban pixel farm.

Icelandic artist Gudrun Kristjansdottir will invite the local community to paint unused daily objects with volcano ash to contribute to her installation at the relay factory.

All participants will contribute to a collective installation

— Dashilar archive mapping — that will hopefully inspire viewers to make their own discoveries in the future.

## NOTCH11 Nordic Art Festival

Where: Relay factory, Da Wai Lang Ying Hutong, Dashilar, Xuanwu District

When: August 13 – September 16, field research

September 17 – 23, Open Studio Camp

September 24 – October 9, 2011 Beijing Design Week and exhibition

Tel: 13581656005

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyi@ynet.com](mailto:weiyi@ynet.com)

**Is it legal for agencies to make invoices or receipts (fapiao) for a higher amount than the real price?**

It is illegal for agencies to do that, because it is tax fraud. You could get in serious trouble if you were caught. The real estate agencies may put the blame on you if the police come, saying that you asked them to do so, as you can save money on your income taxes by doing so.

If the tax bureau audits a tenant, they have the authority to request a copy of the lease from him or her, and may even be able to cross check with the landlord's tax paid, since it had to issue the receipt.

**I am looking for a decent place to rent a car for weekend trips outside downtown Beijing or to nearby cities. I have a driver's license and want to rent without a driver.**

Zuche.com is a professional car rental website with fair prices for day, week or month rentals. Insurance is included in the month price. Register on the site and you will see the prices for different cars. It's a Chinese website. If you cannot speak Chinese, try [avischina.com](http://avischina.com).

**What's the maximum amount of foreign currency I can carry into China?**

If you are bringing more than 20,000 yuan or \$5,000, you must declare it according to Chinese law.

There's no need to bring so much hard cash, as you can use wire transfer or your debit or credit card to get cash while in China, which is safer and more convenient.

(By Wei Xi)

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News U can use

Editor: Wei Ying Designer: Deng Ning

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BEIJING TODAY



# Personal records of the Xinhai Revolution

By Wei Xi

Fu Guoyong, a scholar of modern Chinese history, recently published a two-volume record of the human side of the Xinhai Revolution.

*The 100th Anniversary of Xinhai: The Witnesses' Personal Records* reassembles the timeline of the revolution using diaries, letters, oral accounts and memoirs.

"We normally learn about that era from textbooks written from the perspective of the revolutionary party," Fu said. Looking for a counter viewpoint, he began collecting private records.

His primary sources include notes penned by officer Xu Shichang, writer Xu Zhimo and Japanese resident Munekata Kotaro.

At a book talk at One Way Street last Saturday afternoon, Fu spoke about why the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) collapsed.

By the 1900s, the Qing government was combating a food crisis, credit crisis and rampant rumor mongering.

Fu said the food crisis was the chief factor that broke the Qing Dynasty.

"In the last few years of

Qing, there were floods throughout the country – especially in the Yangtze River and Huaihe River basins, which were the primary agricultural bases," he said.

The ensuing shortages drove prices higher.



## The 100th Anniversary of Xinhai: The Witnesses' Personal Records

By Fu Guoyong, 351pp, Dongfang Publishing House, 38 yuan

"The poet Xu Zhimo, who was then still a student living in Zhejiang Province, once wrote in his diary that he saw a number of people stealing rice on his way back home," Fu said.

The food crisis led into the credit crisis, because the public pulled all

their money from the banks to buy food. The nation's banks went bankrupt within two days.

Rumors further weakened the Qing: the successful Wuchang Uprising in Wuchang, Hubei Province, made many rumors of Qing weakness into reality. People who believed in the revolution trusted all reports that said their army was winning – even when they were false.

"It often happened that when a newspaper mistakenly reported that a local government had been overthrown, the next day the government actually was overthrown," he said.

Both the government and the revolutionary party in the south were in dire financial straits, and "that's why neither of them could afford advanced arms for a nationwide war," Fu said.

A turning point came when the three parties, Empress Dowager Longyu, General Yuan Shikai and the revolutionary party of Sun Yat-sen, were able to reach a compromise.

In order to get adequate information about that event, Fu had spent three years collecting materials from the mainland, Taiwan, Japan and the UK.

Fu said he had no preference as to whose personal records he used, and that his analysis draws on more personal records than those he chose to reprint.

## Trends Lounge book listing

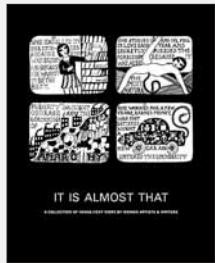
Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of books about international art, design and architecture.



### Trude Fleischmann

By Trude Fleischmann and Heike Herberg, 200pp, Hatje Cantz, 518 yuan

Working in the golden age of modernism in Vienna, photographer Trude Fleischmann (1895-1990) was famed in her lifetime for her portraits of intellectuals, artists, composers and musicians such as Karl Kraus, Alban Berg, Adolf Loos, Arturo Toscanini and Max Reinhardt. This book focuses on the photographer's Viennese period from 1920 to 1938 and contains many previously unpublished portraits, travel photos and photojournalistic works, as well as her famous motion studies of dancers and nudes.



### It is Almost That: A Collection of Image and Text Work by Women Artists and Writers

Edited by Lisa Pearson, 296pp, Siglio, 389 yuan

This book collects works by women artists and writers from the semi-autobiographical novel painted by a young artist who died in the Holocaust to Alison Knowles' computer-generated chance operation for imagining houses and their inhabitants, from the body maps drawn by South African women with AIDS to the alchemical transformation of the pregnant body into an evolving landscape and philosophical meditation.



### David Bowie: Any Day Now

By Kevin Cann, 336pp, Adelita, 389 yuan

This book tracks the rock legend's career from his birth in London in 1947 to the height of his success in 1974 with the release of his album *Diamond Dogs* and his departure from the UK. It also includes the concise listing of the earliest Bowie performances ever published.

(By He Jianwei)

## Dialogue with a dead writer

By He Jianwei

Taiwanese writer Qiu Miao-jin committed suicide in Paris in 1995: her final book, *Dying Testament in Montmartre*, was released one year later.

Inspired by the writer's fate, Lo Yi-chin wrote *Et Nunc Manet In Te* as a lamentation in 2001. Ten years later, the novel is being published in the mainland.

The book creates a dialogue between the life of Lo and the death of Qiu, with nine letters to the dead writer.

Lo calls the letters a negotiation about death.

"It's like *One Thousand and One Nights*, in which the Scheherazade tells the Shah a tale each night to force him to postpone her execution. I wished time could have similarly stood still for Qiu," Lo said. "It was my saddest novel, and I could not write anything for a long time after its publication."

The name of the book is borrowed from a novel by French writer Andre Gide, in which he remembers a beloved and long-suffering wife Madeleine. The wife



### Et Nunc Manet In Te

By Lo Yi-chin, 324pp, Shanghai People's Publishing House, 32 yuan

was Gide's cousin, and the marriage remained unconsummated because of Gide's sexual orientation. After her death, Gide began to rethink their relations.

In Qiu's last book, she mentioned the importance of Gide's book to her writing.

"Gide wrote *Et Nunc Manet In Te* to confess to his wife. When I was writing this book, I read this book again and again. It encouraged me to finish my own book and made me realize that only the writer's sincerity could comfort our soul," Qiu wrote in the last chapter of her book.

In Lo's book, he juxtaposes six short stories with nine letters that deal with the issue of death. For instance, the first story is about a son who wheeled his dead mother in a wheelchair to a hospital to donate her organs. On the subway, the son recalls the mother's lonely and suffering life.

Born in 1967 in Taiwan, Lo was the winner of the first prize of the 3rd Dream of the Red Chamber, a top literary award for Chinese novelists.

# Bad guys with a good heart

## Darth Vader's legion launches China garrison

By Chu Meng

After two years effort, the 501st Legion, better known as Vader's Fist, has a China garrison.

The large virtual military is composed of international Star Wars fans with a passion for wearing screen-accurate replicas of storm trooper armor, Imperial officers' uniforms, clone armor and other character costumes.

Contrary to the negative propaganda being spread by the rebels, these imperial soldiers only want to protect the environment and support the local community.



On July 2 and 3, visitors to the Great Wall or Nanluogu Xiang may have noticed a fully armed garrison of imperial storm troopers being led by Darth Vader – an unusual sight at locations best known for their historic appearance.

The legion put their Death Star-building plans on hold for a day to hand out environmental protection brochures and call on people to participate in more charity events.

Policemen kept a wary eye on the troopers.

The 16 present were members of the 501st Legion's Chinese Garrison, the 501st Legion's accredited branch on the mainland.

Unlike cosplay enthusiasts, who tend to be teens with time to kill, most of the storm troopers were grown men in their 30s and 40s.

The 501st Legion, better known as Vader's Fist, promoted its Chinese branch this month from an outpost of two accredited members to a garrison with 15 members and a commander.

Founded by American Star War's fan Albin Johnson in

1997, the legion is an international Star Wars costuming organization. Today it is the world's largest virtual military, and each of its members has a serial number.

At Monday's count, it had 5,431 active members in 40 countries. The legion is a leading force in international fan-based charity events.

"We are the bad guys, but we behave as charity in the countries and regions we operate in. We are dedicated to brightening the lives of those less fortunate," Johnson said.

Author Timothy Zahn, with the approval of Lucasfilm, honored the legion by incorporating their name into his Star Wars novel *Survivor's Quest* in 2004. Since then, their name has continued to appear in official Star Wars material including books, toys and video games.

The China branch was founded by Song Yifan, a 32-year-old Beijinger whose childhood dream was becoming a star fighter pilot.

Song grew up on a military compound in Beijing, and from

a young age was fascinated by war, weapons and soldiers.

As part of the first-ever Sino-US cultural exchange in 1985, *Star Wars* was screened in China along with co-Oscar winner *The Golden Pond*.

"I was so lucky. The two movies were only broadcast on Beijing's military compounds instead of in the public theaters," Song recalled. "*The Golden Pond* played first, and it kind of bored me since I was a kid. When I was about to walk out, *Star Wars* began."

That afternoon changed his childhood.

But in a pre-Internet era, Star Wars information was difficult to come by in China. He obsessed over the movie for the rest of his life, but had few friends with whom he could share his interest. In 2007, he found an American toy company's forum on the Internet.

"That was where I found out about the 501st Legion and learned it was the only official Star Wars fan club. Fans from any country or region can apply to establish a local troop under the American headquarters," he said.

When he began looking for other Chinese fans to join him in registering the club, he found Zhang Fan in Chengdu, Sichuan Province through the forum.

That summer, he and his friends began to read everything Star Wars-related that they could get their hands on. Then they started collecting toys, posters, T-shirts and videos.

"Those little things ate up a lot of money. But for Star Wars fans, the ultimate collection pieces are character props



*Song Yifan, the Chinese garrison's commander (second from the right) and members from the French garrison*

and body armor. Most cost around \$2,000," he said.

"I was already thinking about starting a China branch of the 501st Legion, but the headquarters required that each member would have to have one standardized, full set of armor," he said.

"It's not like cosplay, where you can just sew your own. To be a member of the 501st Legion, every nail and button has to perfectly match the standardized set," he said.

The next year, he and Zhang imported two sets of armor from the US, spending 20,000 yuan including mailing expenses. They waited with excitement for weeks. When the box arrived, rather than a read-to-wear suit, they found a box full of parts awaiting assembly.

Most pieces required specialized screwdrivers and bolts not readily available in China. They soon found themselves ordering hundreds of small parts and tools from online stores around the world.

Four months later, their armor was assembled and approved. When they were about to apply, Johnson told them that China could not have a troop because there were already troops in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

After another three months of negotiations and votes cast by 150 regional and national commanders, the 501st Legion China Outpost was established at the end of 2008. Song Yifan, serial number TK 2988, and Zhang Fan, serial number TK 9866, were the only members.

"Growth has been slow. We do not accept members with sub-standard costumes or members who can afford the expensive armor but have no interest in working for the local community," Song said.

This month, another 14 Chinese members were approved by the US headquarters.

"It is time for us to do something real. Our internal standards ensure a high level of professionalism in both actions and appearance to ensure a charity event runs smoothly. The 501st name is already known to boost attendance and media attention at events," Song said.

The 501st pays out of pocket for its own charity events and does not charge fees for their other public appearances. Any money it receives is used to support local charities.



# Planting a wall of green

By Annie Wei

Charlyon Tuan, 48, is a French Chinese who, after four years of living in Beijing, finally got tired of the city's lack of green.

A year ago, Tuan decided to try growing indoor plants. "There is a famous Frenchman, Patrick Blanc, who planted wall gardens all over the world, especially in commercial buildings," Tuan said.

Tuan was successful, and now is trying to turn his wall gardens into a business.

He developed his garden wall in two ways: with a traditional soil base and with a hydroponic system.

The hydroponic system originated from Holland, which exports more flowers than any other country, Tuan said.

Building a wall garden isn't overly complicated: find a waterproof wall, cover it with thick felt, use an air pump to bring the nutrient solution to the top and watch the solution trickle through the felt and the plants' roots.

Tuan, who lives in a rented apartment, planted his garden on a movable wood case that contains a water and air pump. It can be easily moved in the apartment.

"My goal is to use recycled materials," Tuan said.

He used lots of old bottles from Master Kang. "They are more sturdy and their color is green as well," he said.

His garden wall starts from 4,000 yuan per square meter, including a six-month guarantee and weekly home maintenance.

"The materials are not cheap," Tuan said. A small plant sprout costs 8 to 10 yuan, and a square-meter space can use at least 60 plants.

"I am a Frenchman and I don't want to sell things to people who don't like it," Tuan said. He treats his garden wall as a work of art. Although an engineer major, Tuan has always liked art.

He names each of his walls. The first one is called "Le Reve de Mon Pere," meaning "my father's dream."

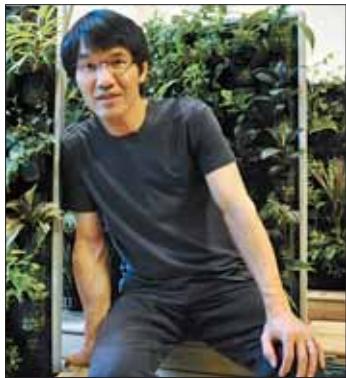
"Since my father was young when he passed away, he never planted anything. But he always said 'I want to have a garden,'" Tuan said.

His second was for Liu Yang, owner of a local cheese workshop, called "Les Herbes du Formager de Pekin," which means "Beijing cheesemaker's grassland."

"Les Deux Mondes," meaning "two worlds," is a two-faced garden wall. One side has wild plants on felt and the other side features plants in bottles, symbolizing the tall buildings of the modern world.

Interested investors have approached Tuan.

But he is more interested in setting up a membership club for expats like him. Members can rent a garden for six months or a year.



Charlyon Tuan

"When we leave the country, we cannot take the garden wall with us, so they can return the walls," he said. The walls, of course, could also be bought.

Some investors have expressed concern that the garden wall idea will be copied, but Tuan said he doesn't mind. He is more concerned about poor garden walls made by others destroying the market before he is ready to enter.

Three of his walls will be on display at Alliance Francaise de Pekin, the French culture center at the west gate of Worker's Stadium.

Contact Charlyon Tuan at [chytuan@hotmail.fr](mailto:chytuan@hotmail.fr).

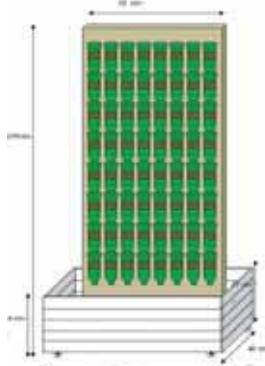


A square meter of wall requires 60 sprouts.



Patric Blanc's wall design is being used by a local garden company.

Photo provided by [AlicegardeTravelBuzz](http://AlicegardeTravelBuzz)



Charlyon Tuan's design for Liu Yang, owner of Le Formager de Pekin



Liu Yang checks on his customized garden.



One of Charlyon Tuan's designs

Photos provided by Charlyon Tuan

# Best time for an outdoor feast? Now

By Annie Wei

The summer's unbearable heat has lifted. No time is better than now to dine outdoors.

*Beijing Today* sought out barbecue veterans about tips for hosting a rooftop dinner or a picnic on a nice lawn.

## Quality meat for barbecue

American Adam Morley, 28, is a marketing associate at Baode Food Delivery. He and his girlfriend, Yang Jie, an associate at GreenPeace Beijing, enjoy good food and good company, which is why they host a barbecue two or three times every month.

The two live on the top floor of an apartment building that has an 80-square-meter rooftop, which has been used before to film TV commercials and scenes from documentaries. From his rooftop, one gets a lovely view of the hutong within Second Ring Road.

Morley and Yang enjoy cooking. Hosting a barbecue party for 20 or more guests is a piece of cake, Morley said.

They are picky with food quality, though. Yang teaches how to make southeastern cuisine at The Hutong, and she said she and Adam have gotten used to ordering organic vegetables every week.

Morley prefers using imported meat and seafood from his company, as "we search around the globe for the finest quality and then bring it to China," he said.

"The food is of very high quality, which means that it requires minimal preparation, as you want to enjoy the natural flavor of the food," he said. "Kind of like why you wouldn't want to add soy sauce to a fine Chinese meal, you wouldn't want to over-prepare a good steak. You want to taste the food, not the added flavoring."

His company supplies food and wine to five-star hotels and restaurants in many Chinese cities, while baodefood.com provides home delivery in Beijing and Shanghai.

The advantage of hosting a barbecue is it can accommodate lots of people with little prep work. For around 20 guests, Morley and Yang prepared about 10 dishes, from crab dip (crab is 78 yuan for 453 grams) to smoked Norwegian salmon (170 yuan for 1,000 grams) served with crackers.

"This crab meat is harvested from Hainan Province," Morley said. "I added a little bit of mayonnaise and it tastes delicious with crackers."

Morley grilled a variety of ribs (starting from 75 yuan for 1 kilogram), paired with barbecue sauce.

There were also different steaks, such as grain-fed ribeye (starting from 175 yuan for 800 grams) and grass-fed ribeye (68 yuan or 300 grams). Both were tight, tender and juicy.

Grain-fed steak has more marbling, or fat, as it's called, giving it a richer flavor. It is the most popular item among all Baode food.

"Some people prefer grass-fed because it has more of a natural flavor and is healthier because it has less fat," Morley said.

For diners who prefer a lighter fare, Morley recommended a white fish, the Mahi Mahi (45 yuan for 226 grams), which is not oily. It's easy to grill with a little salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Corn on the cob is also great on the grill. Roast them directly. You can find fresh corn at local markets.

**Website:** [baodefood.com](http://baodefood.com)



Quality meat makes cooking easy.  
Photos by Lu Di



Adam Morley



Although US diners prefer medium-rare steak, the Chinese prefer meat that's more well-done.



Ribs, starting from 75 yuan for 1 kilogram

### Adam Morley's rib recipe:

The only food that requires any sort of real recipe is the ribs.

1. Prepare a barbecue sauce of brown sugar, beer, salt and hot sauce.
2. Coat each side of the ribs with this sauce.
3. Wrap in tin foil.
4. Put in oven on medium high (toaster oven is OK) for one hour.
5. Remove and coat again on both sides again.
6. Grill for about 5 to 10 minutes to make the outside crispy, then serve.



Salmon and crab appetizers

## JE Mansion offers nice food, lawn and garden

JE Mansion is exceptional among many so-called mansions, done up in an antique building with luxurious interior decor and surrounded by a man-made stream, a large lawn and lush garden.

The restaurant and club has impressed many visitors with its large space and beautiful surroundings.

Kang Jianyi, who re-built this place in 2008 from an abandoned golf course, aims to turn it into an elegant, quiet and well-serviced spot offering royal court and creative Chinese dishes.

Since its opening, the majority of diners have been from big corporations and enterprises, which makes sense because the price isn't cheap: 800 yuan per person.

The lion's head (428 yuan) – Chinese meatballs – seems more expensive than at other restaurants. But here it is made from rare and expensive ingredients like ginseng.

The vegetable pumpkin soup (128 yuan) features needle mushrooms in a small pumpkin with wolfberries. The

place has a wide selection of dishes. We enjoyed the gongguan sanbuqu (188 yuan), three appetizers including delicate goose duck in sake, paired with tuna and avocado hand roll, fresh chestnut and Chinese toon sprouts. The sprouts have a strong flavor and are slightly bitter, so balance them with the chestnuts for an extra layer of flavor.

The lion's head (428 yuan) – Chinese meatballs – seems more expensive than at other restaurants. But here it is made from rare and expensive ingredients like ginseng.

The vegetable pumpkin soup (128 yuan) features needle mushrooms in a small pumpkin with wolfberries. The

soup looks beautiful and tastes mellow and rich, with a nice pumpkin aroma.

We also like its specialty shrimp (128 yuan). Each serving comes with four shrimps prepared with special sauce, tasting sweet and salty, crispy on the outside yet tender inside.

The service is attentive.

Because of JE Mansion's spacious and beautiful outdoor space, it's booked for wedding ceremonies every weekend from now until December.

### JE Mansion

Where: West garden, Honglingjin Gongyuan, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 5139 8739

Cost: average 800 yuan per person



Vegetable pumpkin soup, 128 yuan  
Three appetizers, 188 yuan

JE Mansion

Photos provided by JE Mansion

# Mirror of daily life



By He Jianwei

Unlike many military artists who make heroes out of their subjects, Luo Min prefers capturing the ordinary, from soldiers' daily life to a mother's love for her son.

As a female military artist, Luo has a more refined understanding of military life, especially that of a female soldier. Life is rich and vivid in Luo's paintings.

In *Little Girl Barracks*, Luo depicts female recruits, lined up to take a bath, who wear the

same green military uniform and have the same short hairstyle. She uses bright colors, painting red slippers, yellow basins, green towels and pink faces, to present the liveliness and vitality.

"One of my friends felt surprised about me painting young female soldiers," Luo said. "After I showed the pictures, he understood that I was fascinated with the simplicity, vigor and naturalness of their characteristics."

Another important series of

paintings is about her son's life. In the "Daydream" series, she paints her son swimming in a pool, portraying only her son's body, gesture and facial features.

"When I was sitting near the pool and watching my son swim from one side to another, I felt that there was a distance between him and me, which made me disturbed," Luo said.

Although she does not focus on history, Luo's focus on everyday life hints at the presence of collective memory, the meaning of life and appreci-

ation of beauty. She regards painting as the release of imagination.

The exhibition has more than 50 of her works from the last 15 years.

## Solo Painting Exhibition of Luo Min

Where: Today Art Museum, 32 Baizhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 31, 10 am – 5 pm  
Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students  
Tel: 5876 9804

## Upcoming

### Nightlife Ken Stringfellow and Sonja van Hamel

During Stringfellow's live performance, Hamel brings the songs to life with drawings.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: August 31, 9 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door  
Tel: 6404 2711

## Stage in September

### Concert

#### Ivo Janssen Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaoengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: September 5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6417 7854

#### Peter Serkin Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: September 6, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

#### Michael Kaeshammer Jazz Piano Concert

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District  
When: September 15, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-880 yuan  
Tel: 5166 1145

### Dance

#### Vancouver Goh Ballet Youth Company China Tour

Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yihetuan Lu, Haidian District  
When: September 10, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 120-200 yuan  
Tel: 6275 8452

#### La Sylphide by Guangzhou Ballet

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: September 15-16, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-400 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Drama

#### Five Acts of Life

Where: PLA Theater, 60 Deshengmen Nei Dajie (southeast corner of Jishuitan Qiao), Xicheng District  
When: September 14-18, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 60-580 yuan  
Tel: 6406 8888

#### Wangfujing

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: September 28-30, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-580 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Opera

#### Donizetti's Opera: L'elisir d'Amore

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: September 10-13, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-580 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

# 5

Friday, August 26

### Exhibition Exhibition of Valery Pavlovich Polotnov

Polotnov paints the gentle and mild beauty of the Russian wilderness.

Where: Mountain Art, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 18, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 9498

### Movie



#### The King and the Clown (2005)

This Korean film is set during the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1897). The king falls in love with a court clown, who mocks him.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: 20 yuan  
Tel: 8229 6153

### Nightlife



#### Arrows Made of Desire and Mr. Freeman

Born of Dutch and Chinese parents, Joewi Verhoeven founded the band Arrows Made of Desire with two Chinese musicians, influenced by Nirvana. Zhang Chi, lead singer of the band Mr. Freeman, discovered grunge during his 18 years in Belgium.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 6401 4611

**Exhibition**  
**I Believe**  
This exhibition presents six artists born in the 1980s whose works express their anxiety in the process of self-discovery.

Where: Noda Contemporary Gallery, 241 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 20, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5127 3187

Sunday, August 28

### Exhibition

#### I Believe

This exhibition presents six artists born in the 1980s whose works express their anxiety in the process of self-discovery.

Where: Noda Contemporary Gallery, 241 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 20, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5127 3187

### Movie

#### Deep in the Clouds (2010)

This story takes place in a Lisu village in Nujiang, Yunnan Province. Di Alu is in love with Mu Pa's sister, Ji Ni, but Di is not allowed to pursue her due to Lisu tradition.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

Admission: 40 yuan

When: 2 pm

Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

# 6

Saturday, August 27

### Exhibition Pure Western Qing Tombs – The Photography of Wang Qian

Wang traveled more than 50 times to the Western Qing Tombs, one of the royal tombs of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), to take black-and-white photos that reveal the grandeur of these cultural relics.

Where: 798 Photo Gallery, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Until September 18, daily except Monday and Tuesday, 10 am – 6 pm  
Admission: Free

#### Monday Morning (2002)

Vincent lives in a small French town, where he follows the same routine every day. He gets no satisfaction from his work and home life. With his father's encouragement, he decides to quit his job and take a voyage of self-discovery.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F, Guangcui Inter-

national Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students  
Tel: 6553 2627

### Nightlife

#### Frankenstein

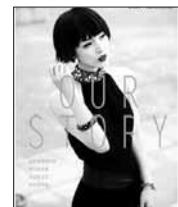
This Austrian punk band released its second full-length album earlier this month, collaborating with Chinese punk label Wuhan Prison.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 40 yuan

advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door

Tel: 6402 5080



### Nightlife

#### Ken Stringfellow and Sonja van Hamel

During Stringfellow's live performance, Hamel brings the songs to life with drawings.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: August 31, 9 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door

Tel: 6404 2711

# Gov releases new exercise regimen

By Zhao Hongyi

The National Sports Bureau released its newest set of exercises and music this month. The exercises have been revised for the seventh time in the last 60 years.

The routine combines basic movements from kung fu, yoga, diving and bowling. The complete program is designed to work the whole body to improve strength, bone density and flexibility.

"It's a nice exercise routine: cheap, effective, convenient and well-received. It only takes five minutes to do the exercises and improve your health," says Yang Shilin, a professor at the mass sports department of Beijing Sports University.

## Breakdown

The exercises consist of nine parts:

**Warm Up:** Walk steadily in place to prepare the body for exercise.

**Set One:** Stretch out, bend down, then stand up with your arms wide open. Let your whole body stretch. This exercise helps build strength in your trunk and relieves pressure in your knees and neck.

**Set Two:** Open your arms parallel to your shoulders and lean back. Walk in place while holding this position. It will boost your breathing capacity and ease tension in your back.

**Set Three:** Kick your legs up with your arms stretched out and parallel to your shoulders. This exercise improves balance and builds muscles in

the thighs and lower legs.

**Set Four:** Stretch both arms up and bow your body to the left and right alternately to build the lumbar muscles.

**Set Five:** With both arms above your head, rotate your trunk left and right to work your lumbar muscles.

**Set Six:** Cross your arms in front of your body and bend toward the ground. This builds muscles in the back and lower lumbar region.

**Set Seven:** Do jumping jacks to build jumping capability and flexibility training. The exercise works your hands, arms, legs and feet.

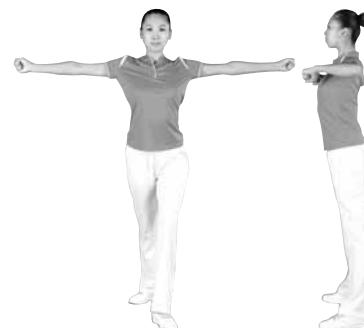
**Cool Down:** Walk in place again, but this time try to gradually reduce your pace.



Warm Up



Set One



Set Two



Set Three



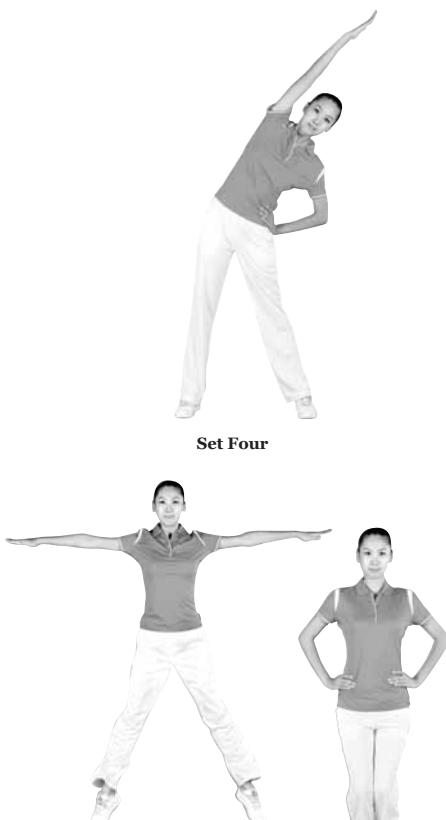
Set Four



Set Five



Set Six



Set Seven



Cool Down

Photos by Liu Quan

# Tibet season

## A 10-day exploration of the holy plateau

By Zhang Dongya

August is Tibet's month to shine.

With festivals such as the Shoton Festival and Horse Racing Festival, visitors are privy to some of the most stunning plateau scenes of the year. *Beijing Today* joined the Lamu Lacuo Tour to Tibet, organized by the Beijing Roc Soaring Travel Agency. The 10-day journey was a photographer's dream and a lesson in Tibetan history and culture.



Those interested in visiting Potala Palace need to reserve a tour one day in advance.

Jokhang Temple features magnificent gold roofs.



Yamdro Yumtso Lake, one of the "three holy lakes" in Tibet.

Photos by Mockingbird



Sutra streamers stand next to the Karuola Glacier.



The best place to view the Nyang River, which is as green as jade.



Climbing the mountain by car feels like ascending into the clouds.

Experienced travelers advise going to Tibet by train in order for one's body to adjust to the altitude. A 44-hour ride along the Qinghai-Tibet Railway may seem tedious, but the scenery makes it more than bearable.

When the train reaches Xining, capital city of Qinghai Province, it begins its steady climb on the Qinghai-Tibet line. At 11:30 am the next day, it will pass Nagqu, the largest prefecture in northern Tibet.

At 4 pm, you'll be in Lhasa. The sunshine will still be fierce, offering a clue as to why Lhasa is known as the "sunlight city."

### Beginning with Nyingchi, the Tibetan Jiangnan

Nyingchi, east of Lhasa, is an ideal place to start the journey because of its lower elevation and pleasant scenery. With its nice climate and river, it is dubbed "Tibetan Jiangnan" (Jiangnan refers to regions south of the Yangtze River).

It is a long trip from Lhasa to Nyingchi – about five hours. But that time will pass fast, as the landscape is amazing.

Nyingchi is about 2,900 meters above sea level, which isn't as high as other parts of Tibet. It's a good place for travelers to adapt to the elevation.

Lhasa River, considered

Tibet's holy river, flows through this part. When driving across Mila Mountain, with its peak at 5,013 meters above the sea level, you will see the Nyang River.

Mila Mountain is the highest point on the Nyingchi line, where travelers can get a grand view of prayer flags, Mani stones and sculptures of Tibetan yaks. Climbing the mountain feels like ascending into the clouds.

Nyang River is one of the most beautiful rivers in Tibet, with water as green as jade. The best place to view the river scenery is at Zhongliu Dizhu, where a giant rock stands in the river. Mountains in the distance are surrounded by floating clouds. The stunning scene opens up right in front of your eyes.

The Nyang River then joins the Yarlung Zangbo in Zemen.

Kading Valley is another attraction in Nyingchi. It is famous for its steep waterfalls, gigantic mountains, ancient forests and Buddhist images on the cliff.

If you're lucky, you will glimpse the snow-covered Namjagbrawa Peak in the distance. It is the highest peak in Nyingchi Prefecture, but is seldom seen due to mist and clouds.

**Accommodation:** It is recommended to lodge in Bayi Town in the center of Nyingchi Prefecture, where many restaurants and hotels are available.

**Admission to Kading Valley:** 20 yuan  
**Returning to Lhasa, the holy city**

Most Chinese people will know a song called "Go Back to Lhasa" by Zheng Jun. In his song, Lhasa is the place where one has no worries and is able to find his true self.

In Tibetan, Lhasa means "holy land," with Potala Palace as its symbol. At 3,700 meters above sea level, Potala Palace is the biggest architectural complex at such a high elevation.

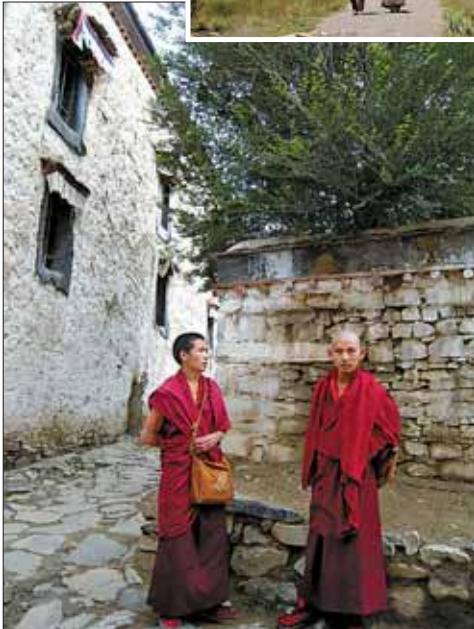
It was first built during Songtsen Gampo's rule in the 7th century and rebuilt in later generations until the 17th century. The present building was expanded by the 5th Dalai Lama in 1645, and ever since it has been known as the Winter Palace of the Dalai Lamas. The latest expansion was completed in 1934, when the Stupa Hall of the 13th Dalai Lama was built.

The total height of the Potala Palace is 117 meters, with 13 floors. It requires quite a bit of physical strength to climb up, especially considering how thin the air is.

*Continued on page 21...*



Gyangz ancient town, which resembles Potala Palace, is in Shigatse.



In Tashihunpo Monastery, visitors can see monks doing services in the chanting hall.



During the trip to Nyingchi, one will travel with the Yarlung Zangbo River close by.



White pagodas in Tashihunpo Monastery

...continued from page 20

The palace is divided into the Red Palace and White Palace. In the Red Palace, visitors can see the Stupa Halls of the Dalai Lamas and all kinds of Buddhist halls; the White Palace depicts the daily life and work of the Dalai Lamas.

Another major temple in Lhasa is the Jokhang Temple, located at the center of an old section of the city. Pious believers gather outside the temple to kowtow.

Jokhang Temple, which means "the temple of Buddha," was built in the mid-7th century in memory of Songtsen Gampo's marriages with Princess Wencheng and Princess Bhrikuti of Nepal.

Entering the temple, you will see old murals on the walls of corridors and halls, which depict the life story of historic characters. Facing west, the four-story temple features magnificent gold roofs. Its architectural style borrows from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and also mixes Indian and Nepali elements. More than 20 chapels filled with big and small Buddhist statues surround a Sakyamuni statue.

Around the Jokhang Temple is a market street called Barkhor that stretches about 800 meters. It serves as both a pilgrim's route and a hub of Tibetan handicrafts. Visitors to Barkhor are required to walk clockwise.

**Admission to Potala Palace:** 100 yuan

**Admission to Jokhang Temple:** 85 yuan

**Shigatse, core of "Back Tibet"**

In Tibet, Lhasa and Shannan Prefecture are designated

on Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) maps as "Front Tibet," while Shigatse, where the Panchen Lama has his seat, is known as "Back Tibet."

The Shigatse line is rife with attractions: a divine lake, snow-capped mountain and grand temples.

The first stop should be Yamdro Yumtso Lake, dubbed "three holy lakes" along with Namtso and Lake Manasarovar. It resembles a tranquil jade embedded in the mountains.

Visitors will also see snow-capped mountains and tranquil islands. Not far away is Karuola Glacier, at an altitude of 5,560 meters. Many sutra streamers appear before the glacier.

Along the way, you will see Gyangz ancient town, which resembles Potala Palace. It was built between the 7th and 9th centuries and was once an important town for commerce and religion. About 4 kilometers south, the Pala manor shows the living condition of servants 400 years ago. Opposite the manor are shabby houses for serfs.

The most important attraction in Shigatse is Tashihunpo Monastery, the biggest monastery for the Gelug – also known as the Yellow Hat sect – in Back Tibet. It was built by Gendun Drup, the first Dalai Lama, in 1447, and is the traditional seat of Panchen Lamas. It attracts religious followers to worship from home and abroad. Visitors will have the opportunity to see monks doing services in the chanting hall.

**Admission to Tashihunpo Monastery:** 55 yuan

#### Travel information

Travel Agency: Beijing Roc Soaring Travel Agency

Tel: 6538 4403

Notes:

1. The agency offers a 10-day Tibet tour, which includes a two-day train trip to Lhasa and a flight back.
2. To prevent altitude sickness, travelers should prepare some medicine, which the travel agency can recommend.
3. The sunlight is intense in Tibet, so you are advised to bring sunglasses and sun block.

Getting there: Take train T27 from Beijing West Railway Station to Lhasa. It takes 44 hours and the sleeper ticket costs about 750 yuan. The flight back to Beijing takes about five hours, with a layover in Chongqing or Chengdu. The lowest ticket price is about 3,000 yuan.



Namtso, the highest lake in the world



August is the best time to travel to Tibet, where the most stunning plateau scenes present themselves.  
Photos by Mockingbird

# Training



## TailorMade Chinese offers beginner group lessons

Learn Chinese with other beginners at TailorMade Chinese Center starting on August 29 or September 5.

TailorMade's professional teachers all have degrees in teaching Chinese as a second language. They are selected for their professionalism and trained to match the school's standards.

Courses are clear, practical and up-to-date, and created by the TailorMade development team to focus on the right issues. The school will help create a perfect program for you, and will monitor your progress to make real-time adjustments.

Classes are flexible and can be adapted to your needs as you continue.

Where: 810 North Tower Shangdu SOHO, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Classes: Beginner, survival, intermediate and

advanced classes, 5 students maximum

Cost: From 47 yuan per hour

Tel: 5900 5420

Email: welcome@tailormadecc.net

## Kids Art Club oil painting

Elena Qian, from 3i Art and Pikka Kids Library, teaches oil painting class every Sunday. Oil painting may seem like a grown-up craft, but if you can teach a child the basics, they may grow to love it!

Where: Familiar Center, Unit 753, Tower A, Chaowai SOHO, 5 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie

When: Sundays, 4-6 pm

Cost: 800 yuan for 4 sessions; 1,440 yuan for

8 sessions

Tel: 5869 2904

Email: service@thefamiliar.com

## Learn martial arts from a Sports University athlete

Liu Laoshi has practiced Chinese martial arts for more than 10 years and won competitions at the national and regional levels. He is a Level 2 national athlete and judge and a sixth-generation successor of Bagua. He has rich experience in coaching, choreographing and performing, especially Tai-chi, Bagua, Chinese boxing. There is no art by this name, bare-handed and weapon-based wushu and sanda. Come try out a customized class.

Tel: 151 1008 2018

# Event

## The 3rd China Image Film Festival opens in London next month

The 3rd China Image Film Festival will be held in London from September 19 to 25. The festival has six segments including opening ceremony, film premieres, Chinese-language movie screenings, art film screenings, a 10-minute creative movie competition, a forum for Sino-British filmmakers and a closing and awards ceremony.

The festival, which began in 2009, is the only Chinese-language film festival in Europe. It aims to help excellent Chinese filmmakers take their works abroad and improve communication and cooperation between China and Europe.

# Dinning



## Berry business

Bored with your usual common cocktails and uninspired desserts? It's time to plan a trip to Aria. Stop in for a cocktail arrangement that has been infused with the summer's finest fruits, along with fizzy drinks, martinis and champagne, or visit the restaurant to enjoy the same great flavors in your desserts. The summer only gets better when it's at Aria.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 31

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 36



## A buffet to tempt any sweet tooth

Step into Cafe on the 6th at Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town and experience a buffet prepared by Swedish Executive Chef Robert Gynne. Indulge in 30 desserts and 50 at dinner, many of which are prepared at live dessert stations. The buffet also has a mountain of cold seafood, spicy hotpot, Hong Kong barbecue roast and fresh meats grilled to order in minutes.

Where: Cafe on the 6th floor, Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, 3 Sanfeng North Area, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5909 6688

(By Jackie Zhang)

# Rent

## Liangmaqiao, Landmark Palace, 2 beds with park view

Landmark palace, near Lufthansa Center and Kempinski Hotel, is located close to subway Line 10. It is within walking distance of the Canadian school and Solana shopping mall.

The 2-bedroom apartment has a spacious living room, cozy bedroom, modern bathroom and a kitchen. All rooms have wood floors. Its large, French windows overlook Chaoyang Park and let in some wonderful natural light.

Size: 143 square meters

Rent: 11,000 yuan

Tel: 13910511877

Email: lily@homeso.com.cn

## Courtyard near the Drum and Bell towers for rent



## Daily or monthly car rental

We offer a wide range of budget, luxury and commercial cars for sightseeing, airport transfer or rent. Cars are available on a daily, weekly, monthly or yearly basis. Long-term or monthly rental contracts benefit from special rates. Airport and wedding car rental is available.

A Buick GL8 (7-seat) costs 650 yuan per day; an Audi A6L (5-seat) costs 700 yuan per day; a Passat (5-seat) costs 500 yuan per day; a Mercedes-Benz S350, S500 or S600 (5-seat) costs 1,600 yuan per day.

Tel: 18910275055

Email: wangweiting712@yahoo.cn

**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at [lizixin@ynet.com](mailto:lizixin@ynet.com).

# Drive one's pigs to the market

By Yao Weijie

My classmate Zhang Xiaotao is a clever and hardworking man. Although born to a farming family, he got a Master's degree in the US and settled there. He asked his mother and father to visit him in the US last year.

Zhang Ming, the father, was a diligent and simple farmer, who knew little about foreign culture and language. At first, all he and his wife would do was watch TV. But he put in an effort to learn the language and was eventually able to communicate with the neighbors using simple words.

Once, while strolling near his house, he met his neighbor Linda, who looked drowsy. Zhang said hi and asked, "Why are you looking so tired?"

"Oh, am I looking tired?" Linda said. "It must be because of my husband. He drove his pigs to the market last night."

Uncle Zhang got very excited. He thought: American people are really hardworking. Not only do they have a daytime job, but some also sell pigs in the market.

"Oh, I understand your husband has been busy," he said.

"Yes, he is very busy these days and has to work over time."

Then Zhang thought, I've known my neighbors for three months, but I've never seen any pigs. Where are they?

So he asked Linda.

"In my house," she answered.

Zhang's heart fluttered. He thought: American people not only know how to seize the moment, but they also know how to put their houses to use by raising pigs. What a great nation! He made a mental note to ask his son about this.

After some more small talk, Zhang went home.

At dinner, Zhang said to his son, "I now know why the US GDP is so high.



American people are so industrious. If our Chinese people could be like them, our country will have a bright future. They not only work in the daytime, but at night they raise pigs in their bedroom. You should learn from them."

Zhang Xiaotao was confused and asked for the story. Uncle Zhang told

him what happened. Afterwards, Xiaotao burst into laughter.

"Drive one's pigs to the market" is just an idiom that means the husband snores all night long," he said.

The father could only shake his head. "I must learn English harder," he said.

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to [lizixin@ynet.com](mailto:lizixin@ynet.com) together with your name and address.

## A note from the Palace Museum

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

In truth, the only thing really wrong with the English version of this sign, in my opinion, is the placement of the comma. It should read: Because the important activity is gone on a sightseeing tour by you bring about forgiving inconveniently, please. I guess it is still a bit Chinglishy. I will explain.

You know how it is, whenever there is something important, such as giving directions to some hopelessly lost tourist, the person you need to solve the problem (i.e. the Chinese guy who actually knows the directions) has wandered off somewhere, often to do something which you bloody asked him to do in the first place.

It is usually something incredibly unimportant, like buy iced tea or whatever else you could have managed on your own but just didn't have the gumption to



My editor is screaming behind me, "Talk about the sign!" Well, okay. The sign in Chinese is perfectly clear: Because (yin) there is an important (zhongyao) activity (huodong) - Gary Locke is visiting the Palace - this has given (gei) your (polite form, (nin) (de) visit (canguan), your sightseeing (youlan) has been given (dailai) some inconvenience (bubian) - dear common, everyday tourist - please (very polite, (jingqing) forgive (yuanliang) us.

At this point, I would suggest a break, such as a calming bowl of *zhajiangmian* (noodles with fried bean sauce) at a restaurant outside the Drum Tower. Send your guy out for iced tea, pull out your Insider's Guide and forgive Gary for being a more important tourist than you are. It's inconvenient but, hey, some days are just like that.

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

**1. The store is packed 1980s-style furniture.**

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD):** Here the writer fails to use the key preposition to it perfect. As we know, there is the English phrase "to be packed with." In this sense, the verb to pack is a transitive verb. For instance, The small theater is packed with a large audience. The garden beer party is packed with celebrities. So, the sample sentence should be: The store is packed with 1980s-style furniture. There is an English verb "to overflow" that means more or less the same in this sense. However, the usage is different. For example, the small theater is overflowing with audience. The store is over-packed with 1980s-style furniture.

**Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ):** We can use "to be packed with" in a more abstract sense, too, such as: An iPad is packed with new features, a baseball team is packed with prospects, and the winter season is packed with holidays. Also, drinks can be packed with punch and food packed with staying power.

**2. She finds a job as cleaner and babysitter.**

**ZSD:** As we know, the usage of the definite and indefinite article is one of the most difficult parts in English. Here, should we have an indefinite article before "cleaner and babysitter"? Should it be, "She finds a job as a cleaner and babysitter" or "She finds a job as a cleaner and a babysitter" or simply, "She finds a job as cleaner and babysitter"? There are three choices the way the articles are used. I think the first is the best choice: She finds a job as a cleaner and babysitter.

**TBZ:** I think that the sentence would be OK if it was longer. Like: She finds a job as a cleaner and babysitter for an American family and takes English classes on the weekend. But I don't disagree with Professor Zhu's changes, either. What I do want to say is that we should all appreciate *ayi* (housekeepers) more, and I think "*ayi*" should be adopted into the English language.

**3. An historical lesson**

**ZSD:** I recently found a student writing this way. I presume he must know French. Many French words that begin with "h" use a mute "h." However, it is different in English. Except for "honor," English words that begin with "h" have the "h" sound. So, it is wrong to use "an" before "historical lesson." It should be: a historical lesson; on the other hand, it is "an honor."

**TBZ:** It seems that a/an is an easy rule: a word that starts with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) takes "an," while a word that starts with a consonant (all the rest, with y able to be a vowel if a-e-i-o-u are all missing) takes "a." Then you get into all the letters that sound like a vowel but aren't yet also take "an." An honor is one — an hour, an LSAT exam, an MA, an MC, an NBC reporter. Remember, in an abbreviation, it's not the actual letter that counts, but how that letter is spelled: "m" is actually "em," so that's why it would be "an MA" instead of "a MA."

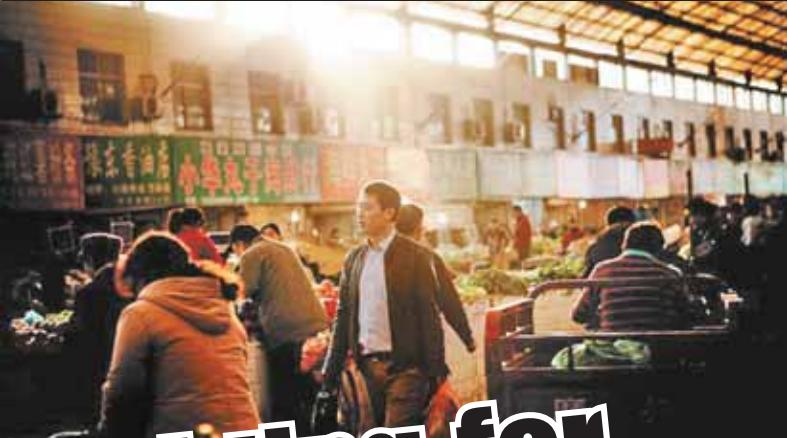
**4. In the late 2000s.**

**ZSD:** When I came across this expression, I hesitated a great deal. Is it right? Will it be misleading to mean the entire 21st century? It could be changed to '00s. We can write "the generation of the '00s" or "China's economic success in the '00s." This clearly indicates the years from 2000 to 2009 without any misleading effect. Of course, you may also say: China's economic success in the first decade of the 21st century.

**TBZ:** It seems to me that the time period of 2000-2009 isn't long enough to have a "late" part. You could also specify — since 2008, after 2007 or even, "In the latter half of the decade."



“Whether success or failure, these people chase their dreams.”



# Fighting for success

By Wei Xi

Director Jia Zhangke invited six young directors to make short films about 12 outstanding people from the fields of business and culture.

The films discuss the difficulties they have confronted and their courage in overcoming the barriers.

The recently released documentary *Yu Lu* follows the careers of 12 men and women who are fighting for success. Each shares his or her dreams and experiences in a seven-minute episode.

Although some, like Cao Fei, wonder what kind of future they will have, none abandon their dreams.

Twenty-eight year old Cao Fei is the founder of 371maicai.com, a website that helps people buy produce online.

Cao could not adapt to life as an office worker, and after changing jobs six times, he convinced two of his friends to join him in starting the website.

“Many people ask why college graduates want to sell vegetables; I ask why college graduates can’t sell vegetables,” Cao says.

Each day, the team distributes advertisements in their local community, bargains with vegetable wholesalers and delivers vegetables to their customers in person.

For all that effort, the website receives fewer than 10 visitors each day, and one of Cao’s backers has withdrawn his money.

Unsure where to go, the smiling faces of his wife and son convinced him to keep trying.

Cao views himself as a failure, but says he is still young. “I am only 28 years old, and I have a lot of time left to build my career. I’ll keep trying until I succeed.”

Zhang Jun, another man in the documentary, could be Cao’s opposite.

Zhang is a Kunqu Opera performer with 25 years of experience. He is one of the nation’s highest ranked Kunqu actors, but that success was difficult to achieve.

When six of his eight fellow apprentices left to learn singing or dancing, Zhang also thought about leaving. “But when I really decided to give it up, I found I couldn’t. Kunqu Opera had become part of my life,” he says.

After more than 10 years of acting, Zhang realized his career was in the hands of others – he did not have the right to decide whether to take a role.

In 1998, he left the Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe to control his own destiny. Many warned him that once he left, he would lose everything he gained.

“I don’t like to think that way. What matters to me is that I can act on my own, and act in roles that I think are worthy,” he says.

The story of investigative journalist Wang Keqin is the only black-and-white segment of the documentary.

“It’s because he as a person can’t fit into our malformed society,” Malaysian director Tan Chui-Mui said. “He is like a hero in a black-and-white movie, not a real person.”

In his 20 years as a journalist, Wang had encountered a number of dangerous situations. In 2001, while investigating the black stock market of Lanzhou, Gansu Province, he received a phone call telling him he would be killed if he didn’t abandon the investigation.

He did not back down.

“There were so many victims, and I thought someone had to stand up and speak for them,” Wang says.

Wang knows he cannot solve China’s problems alone, but he believes “things may not change even if you try, but they cannot change if you don’t try.”

“The thing that moved me most was Wang’s sympathy (for the disadvantaged),” Tan says.

*Yu Lu* also follows the stories of Luo Yonghao, the founder of a popular English training school, artist Xu Bing, blind singer and poet Zhou Yunpeng, Zhang Ying, a volunteer caretaker of AIDS orphans, and fashion designer Wang Yiyang.

“Originally there were 30 people, but after discussing their willingness to be shown in public, we narrowed it down to 12,” says Wei Tie, one of the directors.

Before shooting, each director researched their subject and chose a theme that fit their impression. “When one of my films turned out different from my assumption, I respected the outcome,” Tan says.

Six episodes were previously released online as 3-minute shorts. When those proved popular, chief director Jia Zhangke decided to combine their long forms into a documentary.

Because of time limit, many details about the 12 persons had to be cut. “People who are curious to know more can find that information in our book, titled *Wen Dao*,” Wei says.

Zhang Jun is regarded as the “Prince of Kunqu opera.”



Fashion designer Wang Yiyang in his studio



Wang Keqin (left), investigative journalist, interviews a farmer.



Modern dancer Huang Doudou at a rehearsal